

It's no secret to all who are associated with Orange Grove Junior High that Mr. Fries consistently has been one of the school's most popular teachers—popular with both students and parents. He is well-liked simply because he truly cares about his students. And he's considered a wonderful teacher of history because he truly cares about his country.

Mr. Fries is one of those remarkable teachers who has made a lasting impact on the lives of young people. In fact, one of his students who traveled with Mr. Fries on his first tour to Washington back in 1979 is now a Legislative Director for my friend and colleague from Ohio, Senator Mike DEWINE. This former student has said that his own interest in government, and his own love of history, was due largely to Rick Fries. I am sure there are quite a few more current and former students who were inspired by Mr. Fries, and not just in history and government. Mr. Fries also dedicates his time with young people as a football and basketball coach, and follows the example of the legendary UCLA Coach John Wooden, who developed in his athletes not just physical strength, but also strength of character.

It is fitting that the Orange Grove students will be visiting Capitol Hill on April 13—the birthday of the author of the Declaration of Independence and our third president, Thomas Jefferson. I understand Mr. Fries is a great admirer of President Jefferson, and it shows when he and his students visit Monticello—President Jefferson's home—and the Jefferson Memorial. I also understand that of all the tributes given to President Jefferson, Mr. Fries is particularly fond of the one given by President John F. Kennedy, when the following at a White House dinner honoring Nobel Prize winners: I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever been gathered together at the White House, with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

Mr. President, I am sure I speak for the community of Hacienda Heights when I express my admiration and thanks to Rick Fries. He is truly an inspiration to his students and his fellow teachers for his tireless devotion to young people and to his profession. I wish Mr. Fries, and the students, parents and faculty from Orange Grove an enjoyable and memorable twentieth visit to our nation's capitol.●

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD COFFIN

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, Vermont has a long-standing reputation of having the most valiant regiments to be dispatched to the Union Army during the Civil War. Vermonters not only fought bravely for the preservation of the Union and for an end to slavery, they made vital contributions to many important battles. The Union Army was at a great advan-

tage when they were lucky enough to have Vermonters fighting by their side. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Howard Coffin, a Vermonter who has lead the fight for the preservation of this country's hallowed grounds. I am pleased and honored that Howard Coffin will receive the Vermont Civil War Council's "Full Duty" award for his dedication and accomplishments in preserving and understanding of our nation's most cherished and sacred lands.

Preserving our nation's battlefields is very important to me and a subject very close to Howard's heart. Several years ago I had the privilege to travel with Howard, who is well known as the most prominent Civil War tour guide in Vermont, from battlefield to battlefield. We relived Jackson's battles of the 1862 campaign and retraced the Union campaign of 1864. From that day on I have shared Howard's passion and interest in this country's sacred past. Fortunately for me and this country, Howard took the lead as a member of my staff to find out all we could about the battlefields and what was needed to safeguard this nation's Civil War heritage. It quickly became apparent that the Civil War battlefields were in need of protection. Howard was instrumental in drafting and helping pass important legislation which led to eventual passage of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Commission and the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

A leader in the effort to preserve Civil War battlefields, Howard has served on the boards of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and Protect Historic America and served as member of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. He has published several books on the Civil War, including "Full Duty" and his most recent, "Nine Months to Gettysburg," which tells the story of the Second Vermont Brigade. He also organized the first ever fundraiser for battlefield preservation in Vermont generating over \$10,000 for the protection of the battlefield of the 3rd Winchester where Vermonters fought and died so valiantly.

Mr. President, the American Civil War is thought by many historians to be the fundamental event shaping the character of the United States. However, battlefield sites that are vital to understanding and appreciating our nation's history are in grave danger. This country is lucky to have Howard Coffin on its side, because he will not rest until every field, hill, dam, valley, and woods in this country that has been saturated with the blood of soldiers who fought so bravely are protected and recognized. I am grateful for the foresight and dedication of Howard Coffin and congratulate him on his acceptance of the "Full Duty" award.●

BELLA S. ABZUG

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I was greatly saddened to learn of the death

of Bella S. Abzug. While we began our association as political rivals, past quickly became past, and I came to respect and admire her as a friend and colleague.

She served three terms in the United States Congress with extraordinary distinction, establishing an unparalleled record of commitment to women's issues that would distinguish her career. With a rare combination of intellect, energy, and wit, Bella properly won a place on the national stage. And she did not stop there—in short order Bella Abzug became an international figure. As President of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, she added her voice to a wide range of international debates with a style that was all her own. Bella's stature was such that in 1995 she was selected to lead a delegation of United States nongovernmental organizations to the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China. She made us proud.

To know Bella Abzug was to know a woman of indefatigable passion for the fray. Regardless of the issue, whenever New Yorkers needed an outspoken advocate, Bella could be counted on to lead the charge. She will be missed.

I ask that her obituary from the New York Times of April 1, 1998 be printed in the RECORD.

The obituary follows:

[From the New York Times, Wed., Apr. 1, 1998]

BELLA ABZUG, 77, CONGRESSWOMAN AND A
FOUNDING FEMINIST, IS DEAD

(By Laura Mansnerus)

Bella S. Abzug, New Yorker, feminist, antiwar activist, politician and lawyer, died yesterday at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in Manhattan. She was 77.

She died of complications following heart surgery, said Harold Holzer, who was her spokesman when she served in Congress. She had been hospitalized for weeks, and had been in poor health for several years, he said.

Ms. Abzug represented the West Side of Manhattan for three Congressional terms in the 1970's. She brought with her a belligerent, exuberant politics that made her a national character. Often called just Bella, she was recognizable everywhere by her big hats and a voice that Norman Mailer said "could boil the fat off a taxicab driver's neck."

She opposed the Vietnam War, championed what was then called women's liberation and was one of the first to call for the impeachment of President Richard M. Nixon. Long after it ceased to be fashionable, she called her politics radical. During her last campaign, for Congress in 1986, she told The New York Times, "I am not a centrist."

Bella Abzug was a founding feminist, and an enduring one. In the movement's giddy, sloganeering early days, Ms. Abzug was, like Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem, an icon, the hat bobbing before the cameras at marches and rallies.

After leaving the House in January 1977, she worked for women's rights for two more decades. She founded an international women's group that worked on environmental issues. And she was a leader of a conference of nongovernment organizations that paralleled the United Nations' fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

Even then, she continued to rankle. Former President George Bush, on a private visit to China that coincided with the Beijing conference, said to a meeting of food

production executives: "I feel somewhat sorry for the Chinese, having Bella Abzug running around. Bella Abzug is one who has always represented the extremes of the women's movement."

When told of Mr. Bush's remark, Ms. Abzug, 75, and in a wheelchair, retorted: "He was addressing a fertilizer group? That's appropriate."

Her forceful personality and direct manner made her a lightning rod for criticism from those who opposed the idea of holding a women's conference. After Bob Dole, then the Senate majority leader, said he could not imagine why anyone "would want to attend a conference co-chaired by Bella Abzug," she responded that she was not running the meeting but simply participating with more than 30,000 other women over how best to achieve equal rights.

But much of what Ms. Abzug agitated for—abortion rights, day care, laws against employment discrimination—was by that time mainstream political fare.

In Congress, "she was first on almost everything, on everything that ever mattered," said Esther Newberg. Ms. Abzug's first administrative assistant and one of many staff members who quit but remained devoted. "She was first to call for Richard Nixon's impeachment, first to call for an end to the war."

Ms. Abzug made enemies easily—"Sometimes the hat and the mouth took over," Ms. Newberg said—but Ms. Abzug saw that as a consequence of a refusal to compromise, as well as a matter of sport. Of her time in the House, Ms. Abzug wrote in a journal that was published in 1972 as "Bella." "I spend all day figuring out how to beat the machine and knock the crap out of the political power structure."

She worked relentlessly at organizing and coalition-building. A founder of Women Strike for Peace and the National Women's Political Caucus, she spent a lifetime prodding for change, with a lawyer's enthusiasm for political channels, through organizations from the P.T.A. to the United Nations.

She made friends easily, too. "She's fierce and intense and funny," said her longtime friend Gloria Steinem. "She takes everyone seriously. When she argues with you fiercely, it's because she takes you seriously. And she's willing to change her mind. That's so rare."

HER FIRST SPEECH IN A SUBWAY STATION

Bella Savitzky Abzug was born on July 24, 1920 in the Bronx, the second daughter of Jewish immigrants from Russia. Her father, Emanuel Savitzky, whom Ms. Abzug later described as "this humanist butcher," ran (and named) the Live and Let Live Meat Market on Ninth Avenue in Manhattan.

She said she knew from the age of 11 that she wanted to be a lawyer, and not longer afterward gave her first public speech, in a subway station, while collection for a Zionist youth organization. She went from Hunter College, where she was student body president, to Columbia University Law School, where she was an editor of *The Law Review*, to a practice representing union workers.

Ms. Abzug traced the wearing of her trademark wide-brimmed hats to those days. She once recalled: "When I was a young lawyer, I would go to people's offices and they would always say: 'Sit here. We'll wait for the lawyer.' Working women wore hats. It was the only way they would take you seriously."

"After a while, I started liking them. When I got to Congress, they made a big thing of it. So I was watching. Did they want me to wear it or not? They didn't want me to wear it, so I did."

All the while, she was a leftist and an agitator. Years later, in a moment of exaspera-

tion with her Congressional aids, she wrote: "I just don't understand young people today, quite frankly. Our struggle was political, ideological and economic, and we felt we couldn't make something of ourselves unless we bettered society. We saw the two together."

In the 1950's, Ms. Abzug's law practice turned to other cases identified with the left. One client was Willie McGee, a black Mississippian convicted of raping a white woman and sentenced to death. Ms. Abzug, who was pregnant at the time, argued the case in Mississippi while white supremacist groups threatened her. Though the Supreme Court stayed the execution twice, Mr. McGee was eventually executed.

She also represented people accused of Communist activities by Senator Joseph McCarthy's Congressional committee and its counterpart in Albany.

In the 1960's, Ms. Abzug became an antiwar activist. A founder of Women Strike for Peace, she was its chief lobbyist, opposing nuclear testing and, later, the Vietnam War. She organized insurgent Democrats into other groups, too, becoming a leader of the movement against President Lyndon B. Johnson and prominent in the 1968 Presidential campaign of Senator Eugene McCarthy.

During those years, Ms. Abzug started navigating New York City politics. She and her husband, Martin Abzug, moved from Mount Vernon, the Westchester suburb where they had raised their two daughters, to a town house at 37 Bank Street in Greenwich Village. In 1970, Ms. Abzug ran for Congress.

The 19th Congressional District, which snaked from lower Manhattan to the West 80's, had four registered Democrats to every Republican and had been represented in Congress for seven terms by Leonard Farbstein, a solid but rather somnolent liberal. Ms. Abzug won the Democratic primary with 54 percent of the vote.

CAMPAIGN BECAME A WOMEN'S CRUSADE

At this point, Bella Abzug became national news, a flash of local color in a political year. She seemed to be everywhere, clapping backs and jabbing biceps. Her campaign headquarters next to the Lion's Head, a writers' and journalists' bar in Greenwich Village, was also a daycare center for her legions of female volunteers. The women's crusade she led brought considerable, if sometimes derisive, attention.

Though she eventually took 55 percent of the vote, she had genuine Republican opposition, unusual in an era when New York's main political action consisted of various Democratic factions knifing one another. The Republican-Liberal candidate way Barry Farber, a well-known radio talk show host. Mr. Farber drew many Democrats who resented Mr. Farbstein's humiliation or were simply put off by Ms. Abzug's style.

To her chagrin, Mr. Farber accused Ms. Abzug, who advocated direct negotiations between Israelis and Arabs, of flagging in her support of Israel. For years after that, she made a point of stating her Jewish credentials, dating to childhood: her family was religious and she went regularly to synagogue (though she was bother that women were relegated to the back rows of the balcony), studied Hebrew and was enrolled for a time at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

SETTING HER SIGHTS ON THE PENTAGON

When Ms. Abzug went to Washington, she set her sights on an appointment to the House Armed Services Committee. She wanted a resolution calling for an immediate withdrawal from Vietnam and she vowed to take on the military-industrial complex. She wanted an end to the draft. She wanted national health insurance, legislation to fi-

nance day-care centers and housing, and more money for New York City, all to be paid for with billions siphoned from the Pentagon's budget.

She got little of this, but during the next six years "she was indefatigable," Ms. Newberg recalled.

"She yelled a lot," Ms. Newberg said, "only because she couldn't get everything done." And if she couldn't, she added, it was partly because "her agenda was too pure for her moment in time."

Ms. Abzug became expert at parliamentary rules, worked them skillfully and was famously well prepared for every vote, hearing and committee spat. The "sunshine law" requiring governing bodies to meet publicly came out of a subcommittee she headed. She coaxed funds for New York from the Public Works Committee. She was a sponsor of the women's equal rights amendment.

"She was one of the most exciting, enlightened legislators that ever served in the Congress," said Representative Charles B. Rangel of Manhattan, with whom Ms. Abzug sometimes collaborated and sometimes sparred.

From her first day on Capitol Hill, to the day she dismayed her colleagues by introducing her Vietnam resolution, Ms. Abzug derided the Congressional club, the seniority system, the log-rolling and back-scratch. She did not spare fellow Democrats; when she spoke of liberals, it was usually dismissively. She badgered the House leadership over committee appointments and votes.

She badgered the President, too. Invited to a reception at Richard Nixon's White House, she accepted (while writing in her journal, "Who wants to listen to his pious idiocies?"), then told Nixon in the receiving line that her constituents demanded a withdrawal from Vietnam.

For all of her railing against Democrats who went along to get along, Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill named her one of his dozen assistant whips, and by most accounts she worked well with some of the crustiest fixtures in the House.

Still, in 1972 Ralph Nader estimated that Ms. Abzug's sponsorship of a measure often cost it 20 to 30 votes. Her reputation as an irritant came from all quarters. Jimmy Breslin wrote of a campaign worker who went to the Lion's Head one night, holding his side and vowing never to work for Ms. Abzug again. "She punched me," he said, in a quarrel over scheduling. The next day, Mr. Breslin wrote, Ms. Abzug called the aid. "Michael, I called to apologize," she said. "How's your kidney?"

Mr. Breslin also recounted the Congresswoman's introduction to Sol Linowitz, the former chairman of the Xerox Corporation and a Democratic Party luminary: "Are you the man that used to be the head of the Xerox?" Ms. Abzug asked. "That's right," Mr. Linowitz replied. "I'm glad to meet a big shot," Ms. Abzug said. "I'm in hock \$35,000 on my campaign."

Ms. Abzug acknowledged loneliness in her years in Congress. "Outside of Martin and the kids, I don't feel very related to most people at this point," she wrote in 1971. "I feel detached in social situations. I'm always thinking about other things, about Congress, about the issues, about the political coalition I'm trying to organize. It never leaves me. I even have trouble relating to some of my closest friends, though God knows I still love them, even if they don't know it."

Always, she returned to Manhattan to spend weekends with her husband.

She had married Martin Abzug in 1944. The two New Yorkers met on a bus in Miami, on the way to a Yehudi Menuhin concert. Mr. Abzug, a stockbroker and an author of two published novels, had next to no interest in

politics. In an interview in 1970, he murmured, while his wife was out of the room, "The political bug is a curious bug." But he was also, she said, her best friend and supporter, and "one of the few unneurotic people left in society."

CORROSIVE AMBITION HAMPERS A CAREER

Ms. Abzug's own ambition was too corrosive for many people, even—or, perhaps, especially—for her fellow New York Democrats. When the State Legislature sliced up her district in 1972, they urged her to challenge one of the two conservative incumbent Democrats in adjoining districts, Representative John J. Rooney or Representative John M. Murphy. Instead, she opposed a liberal Democrat, William Fitts Ryan, in the 20th District, encompassing the Upper West Side and the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

The primary was bitter and, eventually, politically expensive to Ms. Abzug. Bill Ryan was one of the earliest heroes of the city's insurgent Democrats, an early opponent of the Vietnam War and a genuinely well-liked man who, as many of his constituents knew, was waging a gallant fight against cancer.

Mr. Ryan defeated Ms. Abzug in the Democratic primary but died before the general election. The Democratic County Committee appointed Ms. Abzug as the candidate to replace him, but she was challenged by Mr. Ryan's widow, Priscilla, who ran on the Liberal line. Ms. Abzug won in November, but she had made dedicated enemies who believed she was an overly aggressive politician who would not hesitate to attack anyone who got in her way. Ten years later, she was denied a seat in the state's delegation to the national party's biannual conference because New York leaders considered her disruptive.

In 1976, she gave up her House seat to run for the Senate. She lost in the primary, to Daniel Patrick Moynihan, by a margin of only 1 percent. Two more campaigns quickly followed. (In a 1978 interview, she said: "I'm a politician. I run for office, That's my profession.") She lost to Edward I. Koch in a crowded mayoral primary in 1977. The next year, running for the House again, she lost, again by 1 percent, to a little-known Republican, S. William Green.

She was appointed co-chairwoman of President Jimmy Carter's National Advisory Committee on Women, and then after disagreeing with him over economic policy, was dismissed. The majority of the committee members resigned in protest. Ms. Abzug, unapologetic, said with a shrug, "I've got to find myself another big, nonpaying job."

Her next and last campaign was in 1986, this time for a House seat in Westchester County. She won the primary in a burst of the old, ebullient campaigning style, but lost in November to Joseph J. DiGuardi, the Republican incumbent.

It was during that campaign that Martin Abzug died. Her friends said Ms. Abzug never recovered. Nine years later, she said in an interview, "I haven't been entirely the same since."

There was one more bid for office for her old house seat on the Upper West Side, when she announced her candidacy to replace Representative Ted Weiss on his death just before the 1992 election. But she was quickly eliminated from the field at the party convention.

During the next decade, Ms. Abzug suffered from ill health, including breast cancer, but continued to practice law and work for women's groups. She wrote a book, "Gender Gap," with her old friend Mim Kelber. She started a lobbying group called Women U.S.A. and founded the Women's Environment and Development Organization, a nonprofit group that works with international agencies.

In addition to her daughters, Eve and Liz, Ms. Abzug is survived by her sister, Helene Alexander of Great Neck, N.Y.

"I've been described as a tough and noisy woman, a prizefighter, a man hater, you name it," Ms. Abzug said of herself in "Bella." "they call me Battling Bella, Mother Courage and a Jewish mother with more complaints than Portnoy."

"There are those who say I'm impatient, impetuous, uppity, rude, profane, brash and overbearing. Whether I'm any of these things or all of them, you can decide for yourself. But whatever I am—and this ought to be made very clear at the outset—I am a very serious woman."♦

RETIREMENT OF NORTHAMPTON CITY TREASURER, MS. SHIRLEY LAROSE

♦ Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today, to pay tribute to Ms. Shirley LaRose, a dedicated public servant who has devoted more than forty-three years of her life to the residents of Northampton, Massachusetts. The city treasurer's office, which has been brightened by her infectious smile and delightful manner, will soon bid farewell to this outstanding woman. She is trading in her balance sheets to enjoy the splendors of a well-deserved retirement.

It is my understanding that Ms. LaRose began her career in the office of the Northampton city treasurer in 1954 as a clerk. In the years to follow, she was promoted from junior to senior clerk, and then became assistant treasurer. She became treasurer of Northampton in 1972 and has run unopposed for the position in every single election since the primary in 1973. Not only is this stellar record a reflection of her competent handling of the city's financial needs, but also of the respect she earned from the people of Northampton.

During her years of overseeing the receipt and distribution of city funds as well as the salaries, life insurance, and retirement policies of its employees, I have been told that Ms. LaRose touched the lives of countless people. She served her community with deep integrity, and her contributions to its prosperity are remarkable. I stand today to thank Shirley for her years of service to Northampton and to wish her well in her retirement. Her loyalty and accomplishments will not soon be forgotten by the grateful citizens of Northampton.♦

NOMINATION OF JAMES HORMEL

♦ Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I wish to speak today regarding the nomination of James Hormel of California to be the U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg.

Last fall, after President Clinton nominated Jim Hormel to serve as our nation's next Ambassador to Luxembourg, the Foreign Relations Committee, on November 4, reported the nomination favorably by a vote of 16 to 2 and sent the nomination to the full Senate for consideration. During the

course of this business meeting, no member of the Committee spoke in opposition to the nomination.

The problem is that the Senate has not been able to consider this nomination because some of our colleagues have put "holds" on it. Before adjourning last year, the Senate confirmed some 50 nominees, whose nominations had been approved by the Foreign Relations Committee. The only nomination that languished was that of Jim Hormel and the reason for this is very obvious. Some of my colleagues oppose this nomination because Jim Hormel is openly gay. That means, in their view, that he is not fit to represent his country overseas in Luxembourg.

It doesn't matter that government officials in Luxembourg have been eager to support this nominee. It doesn't matter, apparently, that in his correspondence with our colleague Senator SMITH from Oregon, Jim Hormel went on the record—in unprecedented fashion—in saying that he would not use his position as Ambassador to push any personal agenda, that his partner would not travel with him to Luxembourg, and his public positions would be those of the United States government only. All that matters, I suspect, for some members of this Senate, is that Jim Hormel is gay, that the most private and intimate elements of his lifestyle disqualify him from public service.

Mr. President, the issue is not and should not be Mr. Hormel's sexual orientation. The only relevant question here is whether he is qualified to undertake the position for which he has been nominated. The answer to that is "yes".

He has impressive academic credentials, having received his undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College and his J.D. from the University of Chicago. He has served as Assistant Dean and Dean of students at the University of Chicago. He currently sits on the board of managers of Swarthmore.

Jim Hormel is a loving father and grandfather, a businessman who ran a successful company for years, and a philanthropist who has supported, in his words but most importantly in his deeds, some of the most important causes facing this country. Outside the beltway, there's a chorus of very public support for this nominee. Those who care about autism, breast cancer research, AIDS research, religious diversity and human rights—they've all rallied together behind this nominee. The Episcopal Archdiocese of California has called Jim Hormel "an exemplary representative of the United States of America." Leaders from the business world, from the universities, and from diplomatic circles, including, I might add, former Secretary of State George Schultz, have stated publicly that James Hormel's public character and intellect make him an exceptionally strong nominee.

This is not the first time that Jim Hormel has been asked to serve his